

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 02421 021822Z

43

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00

OPR-02 USSS-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 PPT-01 /067 W

----- 091596

O 021802Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2206

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2421

FOR A/CCT

ARA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

ARA/NC FOR SONANDRES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

REF: CARACAS 2351

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACTION OF OWENS-ILLINOIS OFFICIALS IN DEALING WITH THE KIDNAPPERS UNILATERALLY AND PICKING UP THE LIST OF INSTRUCTIONS REPORTED PARA 1 REFTEL PLUS THEIR LACK OF PRECAUTION IN HANDLING THE DOCUMENT WAS STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED TO BY THE PRINCIPAL VENEZUELAN INVESTIGATING OFFICER. FRANK LYNCH OF OWENS-ILLINOIS, U.S.A., ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD MADE AN ERROR AND PROMISED FULL COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE. LYNCH DEPARTED FOR THE U.S. YESTERDAY MORNING AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN CARACAS THIS AFTERNOON.

2. THE PRESS CONFERENCE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 02421 021822Z

REFTEL WAS HELD ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 1. WE

UNDERSTAND HOWEVER THAT, ACTING AT THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, THE CHIEF INVESTIGATING OFFICER HAS RECOMMENDED AGAINST LOCAL PUBLICATION OF THE KIDNAPPER'S COMMUNIQUE. HE REPORTEDLY ADVISED THE COMPANY THAT THEY WERE FREE TO PROCEED TODO SO IF THEY INSISTED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOV'S ATTITUDE IN THIS REGARD IS TEMPERED BY CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF PUBLISHING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE COMMUNIQUE THAT THEY HAD EARLIER BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING LOCAL PUBLISHERS NOT TO CARRY, I.E. THE MENTION OF MORALES BELLO AND OTHER OFFICIALS AS WELL AS ATTACKS ON GOV ECONOMIC POLICIES. A COMPANY SPOKESMAN INQUIRED OF THE EMBASSY WHETHER THEY COULD COUNT ON THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE WITH THE NEWSPAPERS IN SEEKING PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, COMPANY OFFICIALS INDICATED THEIR INTENTION OF WITHHOLDING PUBLICATION DESPITE THE IMPENDING DEADLINE IN THE KIDNAPPER'S INSTRUCTIONS. THEY DEEMED THIS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUEST FOR PROOF THAT THEY WERE DEALING WITH THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPERS MADE AT YESTERDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOV WILL REMAIN RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO THE FULL PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND, IF THE EMBASSY SHOULD INTERCEDE IN THIS MATTER, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO DO SO DIRECTLY WITH THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. SINCE THE COMPANY'S REQUEST MAY BE RENEWED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. SHLAUDEMAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA02421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760079-0515
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603105/aaaadost.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CARACAS 2351
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, VE, US, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006